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Extra Sensory Perception Interest Said on Increase

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Extra sensory perception may have a way to go before becoming a medium of mass communication, but for a growing number of persons of the Valley, reception of intuitive messages of the mind are real and frequent occurrences. David McKnight, professor at Blue Ridge Community College, told members of the Friends of the Waynesboro Public Library at their annual meeting in the Red Carpet Inn last night of "Virginia ESP."

Calling ESP an "interesting and fascinating subject," he drew from a wealth of material to describe parapsychological experiences of Virginia residents as diverse as prophetic dreams, dowsing for water, reincarnation, and communication with plants and animals.

The college teacher gave a first hand account of the "ESP boom" that is evidenced by courses in colleges and high schools, the popularity of the courses he teaches at BRCC, and interest of audiences such as the one he addressed last night.

"Why the attention to ESP," he asked and then went on to answer his own question by suggesting that society today "has need for intuititional way of knowing life, for a sense of mystery and inner guidance beyond the rational."

While the current interest is widespread, it is not new, he said. He opened his talk with examples of psyche used by primitive man and early religious prophets.

He noted among the references to work and experiences of persons in the Valley, the books, "Journeys Out of The Body," by Robert A. Monroe of Blue Ridge and "Beyond the Limit of Our Sight," by Elizabeth Proctor Biggs of Flint.

Whether it is a growing awareness of persons of like interest or whether there is a reason yet to be fathomed by minds today, the Valley seems to have a high rate of interest in psychic phenomena. "Maybe it is simply a positive atmosphere of quiet where one can get away from the frantic vibrations of urban life that enhances the possibilities for intuitive sensory perception," he said.

A professor of humanities at BRCC, he is a graduate of Harvard University and of Union Theological Seminary where he received the degree of master of divinity. He has done graduate study at several colleges and universities and is working on a doctorate at Western Colorado University.

He was introduced by Mrs. Myrtle Roane. Louis Spilman gave the invocation. Mrs. Barbara Gillette, president, presided and thanked the members of the Board for their work and support this year.